



A Summer of Bouncing Back



by **Rebecca Roche,**
Director of Development

To say it's been quite a summer at Maine Maritime Museum would be an understatement.

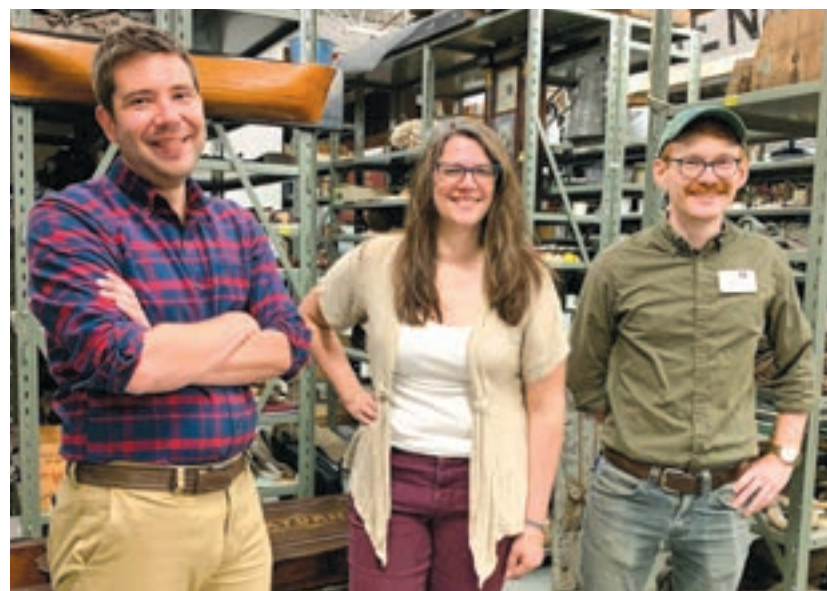
After a 2020 hiatus, we kicked off the season by holding our most successful gala ever. On July 9, more than 225 supporters waded through a tropical storm in their mud boots out to a warren of tents in the Percy & Small shipyard for *Mary E's* Birthday Gala. That night, thanks to their generosity, we raised a record-breaking \$250,000 for both the schooner and traditional skills education at the museum.

Who knew we had so many donors who can dance up a storm in their wellies? Check out the great pictures of the night by photographer Leslie Swan on page 11.

In August, we received word that the museum was awarded an Institute for Museum and Library Services: Museums for America grant totaling \$160,519. This grant will fund a 27-month project which includes a comprehensive inventory, cataloging, and digitization of the museum's principal collection storage space with its 9,000+ artifacts. The project will also allow the museum to significantly expand its online catalog, providing public access to the collections in an expansive new way.

The great news kept coming in September, when we were awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities: American Rescue Plan grant for \$56,498 supporting educational programs. Funding both new and established programs at the museum, this grant will make possible ecology cruises to Merrymeeting Bay for local students, the RSU1 Sense of Place program, and the Crosscurrents summer program for middle schoolers. Funding also supports the museum's new partnership with Bowdoin College's Africana Studies department, which will culminate in a student-designed exhibit opening December 16.

And to cap it off, we're delighted to announce new initiatives to make the museum even more accessible to all, including those who find admissions fees to be a barrier to visiting. November's free admission month is made possible by a grant from the Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust



Left to right, Interim Executive Director Christopher Timm, Collections Manager Kelly Page, and Assistant Curator Paul Fuller will oversee the IMLS grant-funded collections project.

and we look forward to offering another month of free admission in 2022 thanks to the Davenport Trust Fund.

We have also recently joined the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Museums for All program. As a member, Maine Maritime Museum now offers free admission to everyone receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) just by presenting an EBT card. And to expand our commitment to accessibility even further, we now offer free admission for all children 17 years old and younger, sponsored by Central Maine Power!

We are so grateful for you and all the donors who have these exciting changes possible... stay tuned for even more good news in 2022!

Upcoming Exhibits

Arthur Beaumont: Art of the Sea

On view December 11, 2021 – June 5, 2022

Cotton Town: Maine's Economic Connections to Slavery

On view December 16, 2021 – May 8, 2022

Fakes, Forgeries, and Facsimiles

On view June 4 – September 10, 2022

Almost 200 kids participated in summer camp at the museum in 2021!

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Permit No. 10



Maine Maritime Museum celebrates Maine's vibrant maritime culture.

Rhumb Line

A line on the earth's surface which intersects all meridians and parallels of latitude at the same angle. A line of constant course is a rhumb line.

Making Museums Matter



by **Christopher Timm**,
Interim Executive Director

One of the foundational handbooks for museum professionals is *Making Museums Matter*, by Stephen E. Weil. Like most good books, it is one worth coming back to again and again, and it continues to inspire many on our team.

The very title—"Making Museums Matter"—shows a brilliant and deliberate word choice, as it challenges museum communities to take *action* in order to be relevant. Museums can be made to matter in how they engage with the public, in how they develop and care for their collections, and in the stories they choose to tell. And I think Weil's choice of tense here is deliberate. The title could have been "Make Museums Matter"—but that would imply a single, complete act. "Making" indicates a neverending objective, something requiring continual

reassessment and renewal. In other words, museums are neither a collection of static objects, nor static objects in themselves.

Throughout this *Rhumb Line* you will read about some of the exciting work our museum community has been up to. It includes collaborating with Bowdoin College's Africana Studies department to introduce new generations to museum studies, and have them join us in a student-driven exhibit. Pursuing grants to take even better care of our incredible artifact collection. Digitizing more of the treasures in the Nathan R. Lipfert Research Library so these resources are available to researchers across the globe. And making this museum a more accessible place through the November free admission month, the *Museums for All* program, and free admission to all children 17 years and younger.

And because our work is never done—it means it never is too late to get involved. We look forward to you joining us.

Chelsea Lane and Lara Chick Join MMM Team

Over the summer the museum welcomed Chelsea Lane and Lara Chick to the staff.



Chelsea, a Georgetown, Maine native, is the museum's assistant guest services manager. Chelsea is a third-generation Morse High graduate on both sides of her family. Most recently she was the town clerk in Woolwich, and prior to that worked in lending at both Bath Savings Institution and Five County Credit

Union. Chelsea is a devoted Red Sox fan, avid reader, and enthusiastic (if decidedly amateur) knitter. Stop by the front desk and say hi to Chelsea this winter!



Lara, the new events and venue coordinator, grew up in Georgia, but has lived all over the United States, from South Carolina to Tennessee and most recently Washington. Lara and her husband have been married for seven years and have two adorable rescue dogs. They moved to Maine in July 2020 to

be closer to family and friends. Before coming to MMM, Lara worked at Loyal Biscuit in Bath, and previously worked in event coordination for a church in Washington.

Around the Museum



One of the museum’s most recognizable paintings, *Report Me All Well*, by Charles Robert Patterson, left in early fall for off-site conservation work by Anthony Moore Painting Conservation. The six-week process will include cleaning, removing and replacing yellowed varnish, and in-painting areas of paint loss.



Boatshop volunteers Bill Jones (left) and Art Dresser pose in the Percy & Small Shipyard with Bill’s 1949 Ford F1 and a 1934 Dodge runabout that was donated to the museum.



Several local elementary school classes joined us for a virtual event with Donald Soctomah, Passamaquoddy tribal historic preservation officer and children’s book author, who read from his latest picture book, *The Canoe Maker*.



Summer 2021 saw record-breaking attendance at the museum! From May to October, more than 40,000 visitors came through the doors, and we welcomed American Cruises lines ships to Deering Pier for 30 visits.

RSU1 *Sense of Place* Program Resumes

After a pandemic pause, MMM educators returned to local classrooms to relaunch the *Sense of Place* program, which introduces more than 600 local students to the significance of their hometowns’ maritime heritage. Students recently had the opportunity to study maps from the museum collection and create their own collaged “history” maps connecting uses of the land and waterways, past and present.



Bath Middle School seventh-graders study facsimiles of 18th century maps of the Kennebec River created by European settlers to think about who is – and is not – represented as landowners.



Students use photos from history and the present-day to collage what they learned about their favorite places in their hometown.

The Watercraft Collection



by Kurt Spiridakis,
Director of Watercraft and Traditional Skills

Exciting news to report from the watercraft department! During the winter of 2021 the museum formed a watercraft working group to address the current state of our small boat collection. Currently there are over 60 historic small-craft scattered around campus, in various states of exhibition and preservation. Another 60 or so sit in non-publicly accessible storage. These unique, exciting, and iconic vessels need bigger and brighter display and interpretation. Did you know we have: A lobster boat in great condition, commissioned for N.C. Wyeth in 1928 and built in Friendship? A native-built birchbark canoe, ca 1875, recently restored? One of the best national collections of early 20th-century workboats outfitted with the first internal combustion engines, signifying a maritime revolution? These vessels and the stories of the people and purposes behind them are but a small sampling of the diverse and wide-ranging collection.



A native-built birchbox canoe during a 2021 restoration.

The working group set ambitious goals for the next five years, including:

- Create an engaging and dynamic watercraft experience, complete with indoor and outdoor exhibits, static and “working exhibits,” a la the museum’s Boatshop. Current exhibits need better signage and interpretation, and the boats need better thematic grouping, with exhibits focusing more on the human element – the designers, builders, and users. And we need to dream big on future exhibits – can we imagine a space where we can display and fully rig a Friendship sloop built in 1918 by renowned builder Wilbur Morse, representing one of the earliest iterations of the Maine lobsterboat?



Eight Bells, N.C. Wyeth’s 1928 lobsterboat.

- Increase online access to the rich collection of vessel information, including the builders, owners, and methods of construction.
- Increase storage space and develop an aggressive acquisitions policy, especially for more recent watercraft. We have dozens of recreational pulling boats, canoes, and dories from the past 50 to 80 years, but we don’t have a single fiberglass boat in the collection. Why not pursue examples of more modern construction and use, such as a fiberglass lobsterboat, a cold-molded sailboat, or the first 3-D printed boat in the world? All of these exist in Maine and are vital to the state’s commercial and technological evolution.



In summer 2021, a concrete floor was poured in preparation for the Watercraft Restoration Center, slated to open in summer 2022.

Upcoming Exhibit

Arthur Beaumont: Art of the Sea

on view December 11, 2021-June 5, 2022



by Paul Fuller,
Assistant Curator

Arthur Beaumont was something of an enigma. He was an England-born, California-based, cowboy turned artist. His biography almost strains credulity at some points; his run-in with a cattle-stealing gang and the subsequent need to both change his name and move to greener pastures comes first to mind. His art, however, is anything but. His powerful portraits of US Navy vessels and officers are bold and entrancing. His colors pull you in and transport you immediately into the sea.



Arthur Beaumont: Art of the Sea is a traveling exhibit organized by the Irvine Museum in California. This exhibition introduces the work of the artist who was awarded one of the Navy's highest civilian honors, the Meritorious Public Service Medal, for his work supporting and memorializing the Navy.

So – how does an English-born cowboy-artist find his way to a commission in the US Navy as the Official Artist of the United States Fleet?

Born in 1890 on the outskirts of Norwich, England, Arthur Crabbe had art and adventure routinely drilled into him. His father Moses, an officer in the Royal Officer Medical Corps, regaled the five Crabbe children with stories from his postings in India and Egypt. His mother Sarah, a governess prior to her marriage, raised the children on her own while Moses was away. She drew, painted, and sewed in her spare time and must have instilled a love of the arts into her sons, Arthur in particular.

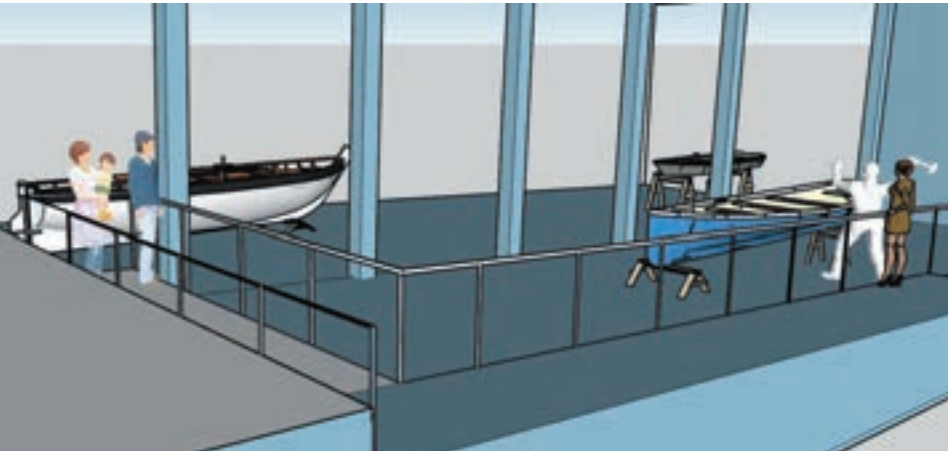
At age 19 Arthur embarked on an adventure of his own. He steamed to Canada where he worked as a ranch hand in Saskatchewan until he earned enough money to join his older brother who had earlier sought opportunity in San Francisco. Arthur enrolled in university and studied art, while working occasionally as a ranch hand to pay for his studies. During one of those stints as a ranch hand he uncovered a cattle stealing ring and became a prime target of those involved.

Partially because of constant threats and attacks, Arthur changed his surname to Beaumont moved to southern California. He eventually left ranching and his other odd jobs and was able to devote himself to art fulltime, with periods of study in both London and Paris. He married and by the 1930s had settled firmly into the Los Angeles art scene. Throughout his education he had made studies and watercolors of harbor scenes. This maritime background helped earn his commission, which propelled his career through World War II and the post-war decades.

While *Art of the Sea* does not depict any Maine-built Navy ships, it depicts the same esprit de corps that Bath Iron Works' vessels evoke as they crawl down the Kennebec. It evokes the spirit of exploration, hard work, and awe that the sea inspires in so many of us today; and once drove an English cowboy to travel the world in an attempt to capture.

- An increased ability to preserve and interpret boats, whether this means cosmetic rehabilitations, more significant restorations, or reproductions. The museum's Boatshop is busy teaching traditional boatbuilding during the school year, and additional space is needed to properly preserve and document collection boats.

These goals are large, wide-ranging, time-consuming, and undoubtedly expensive. But it is high time to consider putting significant resources into the watercraft collection, which by all accounts has been underutilized for decades. Immediate steps include building out a "restoration center" in the basement of the Boatshop, to preserve and restore both collection boats and donations to be sold. This space will be accessible to the public as a working exhibit and will be open summer 2022. Additionally, the museum's primary space for non-public small craft storage is undergoing a major renovation this fall and winter. The boat storing and stacking apparatus was reimagined for safety and ease of use, and 60+ boats were temporarily removed. We are currently clearing the space and installing a new storage system to allow staff and researchers to safely and easily access the collection. And perhaps the largest investment in the watercraft/Boatshop department is the expansion of staff – we are currently looking to hire a boatbuilding educator to work primarily in our Boatshop, freeing up time for me to tackle these new goals and initiatives.



A mock-up of the new Watercraft Restoration Center.

This ambitious and long-term reimagining of the collection isn't a new idea, but that doesn't mean there isn't excitement for it. To date over \$45,000 has been raised in support of these current and future projects. Given the scope and scale of our plans, we are still actively fundraising. Naming opportunities abound, and no donation is too small (or too large)! Contact Rebecca Roche (roche@maritimeme.org) if you'd like to make a gift to support this project.

First Impressions Garden Party

On September 30, the museum celebrated the completion of the First Impressions project with an evening of food, drink, and an opportunity to explore all of the incredible new greenspaces found in the south campus. Thank you to all who supported this transformative project!



Left to right, Loren and JB Wright, Sandy and David Weiss, Kristin Fletcher, and Len Langer.



Peggy and Greger Anderson



Landscape volunteers Anne Krebsbach and Sharon Trabona educated guests on the native plants found in the new landscaping.



Gerry Orem, Greg and Sally Schaffer



Marty and Elizabeth Lakeman, and Bonnie Beck (center)

Giving to Maine Maritime Museum

Honor/Memorial Gifts

March 5 through October 12, 2021

In Memory of Carol Cusimano Bernier
Robert Bernier

In Memory of CDR Rogers Lucien Black, USN (Ret)
Jerry Adams

In Memory of Charles E. Burden, M.D.
Anonymous
James E. Barrett
Bud Warren
Benjamin and Jill Burden
Christian and Christina Burden
John and Elizabeth Morse
Winn Price and Leigh Hallett
Eric Ruff
Nicholas and Jeanne Sewall
Vicki Sprague

In Memory of Holly Hock Dumaine
Christopher Dumaine

In Honor of Garry Hoyt
Stephen and Joanne Caulfield

In Honor of Amy Lent
W.E. White and Ann Marie Bartoo

In Honor of Ford Reiche
Allison Paine

In Memory of Raymond L. Swain
William and Suzanne Bushnell
Anne Fristrom
Corinne Lyman
Rebecca A. Roche
Elena D. Vandervoort

In Honor of Elena Vandervoort
Charles J. and Irene F. Hamm

Welcome New Members

March 5 through October 6, 2021

Mark and Cara Abraham
David Adams
Kimberly Alexander and Dane Morrison
Dawn and Steven Allen
John D. Allen and Joyce R. Krajian
Ed and Linda Alperin
Lisa and David Amigo
Susan B. Amundsen
Max and Jessie Arsenaault
Lisa and Jeff Assenza
Wesley Baden and Laura Arnold
Tracy Bailey and Darrell Fraize
Diane and Andrew Bain
Kenneth Baizleg
Elizabeth and Sean Barker
Claudia and Heather Barnard
Elizabeth H. Barnes

James and Theresa Baskerville
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Ray and Arlyss Becker
Donna and Michael Beers
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Laurel and Gregory Bernier
Kathy and Sean Bilodeau
Kyle Bowman
Donald Brittingham and Elisabeth Madden
Victoria Burkhart and Carl Lozon
John Byram and Alice Shea
Mateus Campos
Bree Candland and Dan Burson
Athene and Jeff Cannon
Rafael Castro and Elizabeth Vasallo
Michael Chase and Kimberly Donnelly
Cynthia and Thomas Clement
David and Elizabeth Cleveland
Michael and Luanne Cloutier
Malcolm Coates and Elin Peterson
John and Heidi Coffin
Janice Collins
Jeffrey Colwell
Lee Cooper and Heather Parker
David A. Cormier and Karyl Lynch
John and Susan Cornell
Ryan Crawford
Peter and Jane Crum
Melissa and Bill Cullina
Mike and Peg Curran
Eddie K. D'Agostino and Susan Borkowski
Erica D'eraimo and Matthew Skinner
Josep A. Dalton and Donna S. Burnell
Robert and Grace DeBoer
Charlie Deignan and Tessa Silvernale
Michael and Sara DePesa
Jane Derbyshire
Kynic DiBuono and Michael Indick
Carmen Duarte
Donald C. Duncan
Charles B. Durfee
Nicholas and Elizabeth DuRocher
Cheryl Dury
Merrill Ebner and Kathy Decker
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Anna and Benjamin Faught
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Patrick and Judith Funk
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Judy and Brian Gale
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Sandra and William Gilson
Allison and Jeremy Gray
Joanne C. Gray

Peter Grenier and Leslie Arnson

Blaze and Owen Grohman

John Haile

Carol and Robert Haller

Joshua Hamilton

Lavinia and Michael Hand

Ellen Hargreaves

Brian and Virginia Hatch

Christine and Peter Hein

Lisa A. Heinz

Darryl and Holly Hendricks

Robert and Sally Herbert

Poppy Hiser and Timothy Folland

Ruzena Hlozik

Polly S. Hodgkins and Hans-Heinz Walbaum

Russ Hoffman and Sarah Foulger

Robert and Martha Holland

Steve and Sarah Hoskins

Denise and David Hoyle

Nathaniel Hyde and Polly Arnoff

Annie Iacono

Catherine Iffland

Bob and Phyllis Ives

Daniel Johnson and Kim Henderson

Lindsey Johnston and Tom Kryzak

Diane and Andrew Kane

Paul Kane and Sarah Chandler

Lou Kaucic

Shana and Joanna Kelley-Cohen

Jerry Kelpner and Karetta Hubbard

Lauren Kinghorn

Albert J. Kolff

Walter and Gerrie Kupper

Nancy Kurtz

Judith Ladson

Douglas and Katherine Lail

Harley and Lily Laing

Leslie Lannan and Kevin Seabeck

Eva and Emily Lark

Paul Legutko and Mary Daly

David and Margaret Lewis

Lee and Sandra Liggett

Jeffrey C. Little

Kay and Dana Little

Per and Martha Lofving

Susan L. Longo

Deborah Lovewell

Scott and Cathy MacDowell

Eric Marko and Edward Donnelly

Christopher Marks

John McBee

Laura McCandlish and Daniel Stone

Amber McGowan and Shawn Guest

Terry and Bonnie Michael

Gary and Laurice Mortenson

Margaret Mason Mullin and Don Stuart Mullin

Bruce Murray

Dave Newbold and Maxine Hunter

Jeremy Nobel

John Nyren and Karen Heilich

Kimberly O'Connor

Melissa and Peter O'Connor

Steven Ober

Larney Otis

Tim and Carrie Ouellette

Maureen and David Parker

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Heather and Larry Pistell

Nicole Poe

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Nan S. Rahn

David and Florence Randall

Gwyn Rayer

Hazel Raynes and Stephen Taylor

Emily and Scott Read

Brad Rendle

Heidi and Peter Robertson

Tom and Denise Rooney

Mary Jane and Howard Rosenfield

Joan Binney Ross

Charlotte Rowell and Mark Cleveland

Erica Ryland and Sarah Jenkins

Susan Sandler

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Judy and Mark Sgantas

Kate and Jonathan Shaw

Amanda Shorey

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Kent and Jackie Snell

Laura Sohval

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Theodore and Barbara Stainman

John and Jane Stevens

Owen and Neha Stevens

Thomas and Denise Stonum

Mandy and Matthew Stultz

Korinne and James Tanzer

John D. Teller

Richard Thomas and Anne Garty

Yvonne and Jamie Thomas

Benjamin and Emily Tobey

Donald and Pamela Tomkinson

Greg Tondreau

Sue Ellen Travers

Alfred and Whitney Traylor

Christine Ulbricht and Karl Anderson

William and Anne Van Twisk

Edward and Melissa Wanat

Zachary Mason Warner

Katherine M. Waters

Janis and Robert Weed

Robert and Lisa Weigand

Jean West

Terry and Walter Whetstone

Jamie and Christopher White

Peter and Deborah White

Vicki Willock

John F. Winchester

Benjamin Windhorst

Richard Wing

Timothy Wylie and Emily Pistell

Amy and Matt Yoakum

Featured Business Partner

Bangor Savings Bank, with more than \$6 billion in assets, offers retail banking to consumers as well as comprehensive commercial, corporate, payroll administration, merchant services, and small business banking services to businesses. The Bank, founded in 1852, is in its 169th year with more than 60 branches in Maine and New Hampshire and business and/or loan production offices in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Bangor Savings Bank and The Bangor Savings Bank Foundation have invested more than \$3.4 million into the community in the form of sponsorships, grants, and partnership initiatives last year. Bangor Savings Bank is an equal opportunity employer and can be found online at www.bangor.com. Member FDIC.



Support these Business Partners who support MMM

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The Reny Charitable Foundation

Foresail (\$10,000)

General Dynamics - Bath Iron Works

Staysail (\$7,500)

Highland Green

Anchor (\$5,000)

Bangor Savings Bank
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Quarterdeck (\$2,500)

Browne Trading Company
Churchill Events
R M Davis, Inc.
Lyman-Morse Boatbuilding Company
Maine Street Design Co.
RE/MAX Riverside
Stone Cove Catering

Mast (\$1,000)

Carl A. Bickford, Inc.
Byrnes' Irish Pub
Chesterfield Associates Inc.
Cross Insurance
Derecktor Robinhood
Edward Jones
Hammond Lumber
Meadow Park Development Corp.
John G. Morse & Sons, LLC
Piper Shores
Proforma Marketing Essentials
Vigilant Capital Management, LLC

Rudder (\$500)

Bamforth Marine
BEK, Inc.
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FIORE Artisan Olive Oils and Vinegars
G&E Roofing Co., Inc.
Goodwin Chevrolet Mazda
The Highlands
Kennebec Equipment Rental
J.R. Maxwell & Co.
Mid Coast Hospital
Midcoast Federal Credit Union
Montsweag Restaurant
New England Tent and Awning
Norway Savings Bank
Now You're Cooking
Points East
Residence Inn Bath/Brunswick
Riley Insurance Agency
Royal River Boatyard & Repair
Sabre Yachts & Back Cove Yachts
Springer's Jewelers
Thomaston Place Auction Galleries, Inc.
Thornton Oaks Retirement Community
Westlawn Institute of Marine Technology

New Business Partners are listed in **RED**.
Visit MaineMaritimeMuseum.org for a full list of Business Partners.

Upcoming Events

Special Events

'Tis the Season: A Cocktail Kickoff to the Holidays

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 7-9 PM

Members \$45; nonmembers \$55; designated driver \$20



Kick off the holiday season with an evening of festive cocktails! Join us to sample specialty cocktails from Maine's artisan spirit makers – and bring home a bottle or two to stock the bar

for your own holiday gatherings. Vena's Fizz House will get us all party-ready with mixology demos (and delicious mocktail samples) and Now You're Cooking will be preparing snacks and answering all of your holiday cooking questions. Ticket price includes all beverage samples and tapas and treats from Stone Cove Catering.

Lectures/Workshops

DECEMBER 10, 12 PM

Arthur Beaumont: Art of the Sea Exhibit Tour

FREE with admission

with James Irvine Swinden, president of the Irvine Museum, University of California, Irvine.

FEBRUARY 9, 6-7PM

Maine and the Economics of Enslavement

FREE, preregistration required

Historian Seth Goldstein, education coordinator Atlantic Black Box and adjunct instructor of World History, Maine College of Art & Design, will discuss Maine's complex relationship with Atlantic World African enslavement. Through a deep dive into what was known as "The West Indies Trade," Seth will explain how various commodities like lumber and salt cod, produced in Maine, were shipped to the slave plantations of the Caribbean. In return Mainers consumed large quantities of sugar, molasses, rum, and exotic fruits produced by enslaved Africans.

MARCH 10, 6-7 PM

James Stilphen: Art in the City of Ships

FREE

with Christopher Timm, interim executive director, Maine Maritime Museum.

MARCH 12, 10 AM-12 PM

Workshop: Researching Genealogical History

Members \$10; nonmembers \$13

Join Barbara Desmarais, local historian and contributing author to Maine's Visible Black History, as she introduces her wealth of experience in field and archival research gained from documenting the prominent Black families of the Plains Community and Brunswick, Maine. This hands-on workshop will introduce participants to the techniques and common mistakes in conducting genealogical research.

APRIL 14, 6-7 PM

Maine Maritime Museum & Africana Studies at Bowdoin College

FREE, preregistration required

Associate Professor of Africana Studies and English, Tess Chakkalakal, will discuss her collaboration with the Maine Maritime Museum in teaching the Introduction to Africana Studies in which students, for the first time in the history of the course, curated an exhibit at the museum on the subject of ships and slavery. Professor Chakkalakal will provide insight on class conversations connecting African American literature, multiplicity of perspectives, and the challenges of exhibiting these narratives in a gallery.

MAY 5, 6-7 PM

African American Maritime History in Maine

FREE, preregistration required

Bob Greene is a retired journalist and genealogist who has researched the Black history of his native state of Maine for years. He helped with the seminal work, "Maine's Visible Black History, The First Chronicle of its People," which was co-authored by H.H. Price and Gerald E. Talbot. Greene will expand our understanding of Maine's maritime heritage to include Black contributions and histories that were always present, but often overlooked.

MAY 19, 6-7 PM

Virtual Lecture: Maine Seafaring Families and the Atlantic Slave Trade

FREE, via Zoom, preregistration required

Kate McMahon of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture, a leading scholar in New England's complicity in the Atlantic Slave Trade, will share her latest research, which implicates Maine ship captains, shipbuilding families, and the direct and indirect ways Maine's shipbuilding industry perpetuated an American economy built on stolen labor.

Two Centuries of Maine Shipbuilding Now Available



Two Centuries of Maine Shipbuilding; A Visual History by Nathan Lipfert (curator emeritus) is now available! Celebrating the bicentennial of Maine, the book explores the rich history of Maine shipbuilding.

Though concentrating primarily on shipbuilding activity in the two centuries since statehood, the book begins with pre-1820 activity, including native canoe-making and colonial-period shipbuilding. Covering the entire coast, this rich visual history focuses on the industry and the vessels produced, highlighting Maine's national and international importance in shipbuilding over the past two centuries, and its continuing relevance to national security, the fisheries, yachting and harbor craft. Get your copy in the Museum Store in person or online!

MMM Expands Free Admission Opportunities

As part of an ongoing effort to increase accessibility for all, Maine Maritime Museum will now offer free admission for all visitors under 18. The museum has also partnered with Museums for All, a program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, to provide free admission to anyone with an EBT (electronic benefit transfer) card. We hope these initiatives will provide many more families with the opportunity to explore the museum.

Cotton Town: A Collaborative Exhibit with Bowdoin College Africana Studies Department



by Luke Gates-Milardo,
Educator

On Friday, October 11, 1850, insufficient cargo at Baltimore made it difficult for Bath captain John C. Lowell of the Sewall-owned *John C. Calhoun* to ensure a profitable voyage to New Orleans. His solution? To transport enslaved people for auction. “I engaged this morning 80 negroes at \$12 p head & think the prospect good for 40 or 60 more at the same rate,” Lowell wrote to the Sewalls. “Please say nothing about my taking negroes” (Sewall Family Papers, 22.365.7).

The Sewalls, like other northern businessmen, did not have to be told to keep quiet. While the economic link between Bath shipping companies and southern slavers was no secret at the time, the closeness of this relationship has yet to receive the attention it deserves in traditional historical narratives. But as researchers assume a more inclusive focus, evidence of Maine mariners regularly transporting and greatly profiting off enslaved people is coming to light. Furthermore, the fact that so many Bath-built vessels were used in the cotton and West Indies trades inextricably implicates the businesses, individuals, and communities who profited from them in the capture, sale, and enslavement of Africans and African Americans. In fact, the *John C. Calhoun* itself, the only Clark and Sewall vessel adorned with a figurehead, is a tribute to the staunch anti-abolitionism of its namesake, the U.S. Vice President who so adamantly defended slavery and protected white economic interests in the antebellum South.

This is the undertold angle of Maine’s maritime history that Bowdoin College professor and chair of the Africana Studies Department Tess Chakkalakal’s Introduction to Africana Studies students are exploring

as they curate a new exhibit, *Cotton Town: Maine’s Economic Connections to Slavery*, opening December 16. In the exhibit, students will juxtapose previously unexhibited documents alongside more typical maritime artifacts—ship portraits, tools, souvenirs—prompting visitors to re-examine perspectives on Maine’s maritime history. In doing so they are not only gaining professional



Bowdoin students get an up-close look at artifacts in MMM’s collection.



Sarah Timm introduces students to object analysis and interpretation outside Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

experience in archival research, interpretation, and curation, they are developing an appreciation for the importance of inclusivity in both interpreting history and accomplishing meaningful work. In this collaboration between Bowdoin College and Maine Maritime Museum, students are applying their classroom learning on history, race, and culture to a vital public discourse that connects Maine’s maritime past with today’s national conversation on racial equity.

Museum educators, including myself and Sarah Timm, together with Professor Chakkalakal co-designed a curriculum that synthesizes Africana Studies course content with Museum Studies. Throughout the first half of the semester Bowdoin hosted MMM educators to present on object interpretation and exhibit curation, including a lesson at Bowdoin College Museum of Art. Since then, students have engaged directly with MMM’s collection through online research and tours of the galleries, library archives, and collection storage as they compose analytical essays on selected items from the museum’s collection.

Through their research, students have learned to appreciate the complexities of the past, understanding that even the most accepted historical narratives can privilege one perspective and, over time, erase another. To celebrate Maine’s maritime heritage without critique not only indulges an incomplete history, it encourages a national identity in which the oppressed are silenced and wealth, despite the horrors of its acquisition, equates power. In the upcoming exhibit, MMM educators and Bowdoin students hope to combat historical exclusion in pursuit of a more accurate history. This work is necessary, for without acknowledging the sometimes painful complications of our past, we will forever be ill-equipped to understand the complexities of our present.

Volunteer Certification



by Will Valentine,
Volunteer Coordinator

During volunteer orientation at Maine Maritime Museum, new and veteran volunteers are given the chance to expand their knowledge of the museum by completing a set of activities related to exhibits and museum history. These activities include tasks such as visiting new installations and attending lectures.

In 2021, 66 volunteers went above and beyond to complete these activities and become Certified Volunteers. We are so grateful for these volunteers who have shown such dedication to the museum and its mission. As ambassadors of our museum, Certified Volunteers share an impressive wealth of knowledge about the museum with visitors, surely making for a fantastic trip every time. Let’s give them all a round of applause!

If you are interested in joining our wonderful team of volunteers, make sure to apply online at mainemaritimemuseum.org.

2021 Certified Volunteers

Libby Wehrle Anderson	Phil Grubbs	Steve O’Keefe
Scott Andrews	Marnie Hackenberg	Michael Pachecoo
Susan Babb	John Haile	Russ Pierson
Connie Barras	Ray Hender	Gwyneth Rayer
Ray Becker	Michael Hetzel	Dwayne Robinson
Russ Bolt	Paul Kane	Richard Rotnem
Bill Bushnell	Cy Kendrick	Dana Sattin
Betsy Butler	Dick King	Mary Schreiber
Jeff Cannon	Paul King	Dave Schulz
Athene Cannon	Reta King	Joel Shapiro
Jack Carr	Bruce Knight	Christopher Smith
George Clary	Joan Knight	Carolyn Stackpole
Rick Cliffe	Doug Kohring	Dean Swarthout
Dave Crump	Steve Kornacki	Greg Tondreau
Carol Dove	Anne Krebsbach	David Vaughn
Irene Drago	Nancy Kurtz	Trish Vaughn
Court Dwyer	Dennis Leveille	Sarah Wheeler
Tom Edwards	Barbara Mangion	Evan White
Rich Evans	Michael Mangion	Ellen Whiting
Tom Fitch	David Marcello	Dieuwke “Juka” Zolas
Dale Gardner	Jim Martin	
Chuck Gauger	Stanley Miller	
Patricia Gribben	Mary Ellen Miller	

Meet Will!



Welcome to Will Valentine, MMM’s new volunteer coordinator! Will, who started in July, is from Seattle, Wash. Before coming to the Maine Maritime Museum he worked at the Seattle Aquarium as the guest services supervisor. Will enjoys working with people who are passionate about their organization’s mission, such as at the aquarium, and the cat shelter where he worked before that. Will is looking forward to experiencing how Maine Maritime Museum engages its community and working with its many excellent volunteers.

Volunteer Recognition 2021

After a successful, busy season of volunteering, Maine Maritime Museum volunteers are thrown a celebration to honor their hard work. This recognition event includes remarks from staff and chair of the board, award distribution, and arguably most important, the chance for volunteers to kick back with their peers one last time before a break for the winter. Many volunteer positions at the museum provide ample opportunity for bonding and teambuilding. It’s wonderful to see many of our volunteers making friends and enjoying each other’s company.



Bob Mansfield – who has been volunteering at the museum for 46 years – was presented with a golden treenail as the recipient of the Bushnell & Crump Leadership Award.

Mary E’s Birthday Gala

On July 9, more than 200 supporters braved a tropical storm to party in the Percy & Small Shipyard and help us raise \$250,000 at the annual *Mary E* gala!

Photos by Leslie Swan Photography.



The live auction is always a highlight of the evening!



Museum supporters raise a toast to the schooner *Mary E*



Elena Vandervoort and Paula McLaughlin



Mike and Betsy Fear



Terry and Sally Gray

Thank you to our Event Sponsors and Donors

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From the Nathan R. Lipfert Research Library



by **Julia Ryder,**
Library Assistant

Over the past few months I have had the opportunity to work on a project in the Nathan R. Lipfert Research Library that focuses on digitizing and cataloging a large portion of the museum’s collection of logbooks and diaries. My role has been to create digital versions of the archives that can be used by researchers online. This has been done by using an archival scanner to capture images of the manuscripts, and then create records for them on our museum’s collection software, PastPerfect. The goal of this project has always been to increase the accessibility of the museum’s collection, so that the vastness of the Maine Maritime Museum’s archival collection could be used by all. Now by the end of the project almost 300 of the museum’s manuscripts can be easily accessed virtually through our website, which will greatly help any future research projects!

My experience working with the archival collection has allowed me to gain new understandings concerning not only maritime history, but also about the lives of Mainers in the past as a whole. By reading these firsthand accounts from the many sailors to come out of Maine, you begin to realize how intricate their lives were and what great experiences they had. Because of this, if I had to choose, I would say my favorite manuscripts to work with were the diaries in the collection. Diaries are much more personal than logbooks and offer up insight on the author’s life, with details such as their familial relations, the places they visited and the people they met. With that being said, within any of the manuscripts is the opportunity to find interesting observations and accounts about a sailor’s travels and experience. Throughout the project I’ve greatly enjoyed my time working with this material and hope that by creating access to it that others can grow to appreciate it the way I do!



Bowdoin College students examine documents in the Nathan R. Lipfert Research Library.

Julia Ryder is an alum of Goldsmiths, University of London with an MA in Anthropology and Museum Practice and a background in History. Before working at the Maine Maritime Museum she worked in a variety of roles within the museum sector including exhibition set up, collections care, and archival digitization. In her free time, Julia loves to travel abroad and has visited 13 countries so far with plans to visit many more.

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